

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of **Tomasz RUDAS**

International Application: **PCT/AU00/00865**

International Filing Date: **20/JULY/1999**

U.S. Serial No: **not yet known**

Filed: **submitted herewith**

For: **AN ORGANIC WASTE MATERIAL TREATMENT PROCESS**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following complete set of claims. A marked-up version of the claims showing changes made appears after the Remarks.

1 (amended). An organic waste material treatment process for organic waste material received in a vessel comprising the steps of:

- a) subjecting the contents of the vessel to conditions under which aerobic composting of the contents of the vessel will proceed in order to raise the temperature of the contents of the vessel to between 15-75°C to promote anaerobic digestion of the contents;
- b) depleting oxygen in the vessel to create conditions suitable for anaerobic digestion of the contents to proceed;
- c) adding an anaerobic bacterial inoculum to the contents of the vessel;
- d) anaerobically digesting the contents of the vessel;
- e) separating gaseous byproducts from residues resulting from step d);